DECLASSIFIED (BOKASSA OVERTHROWN) STATE A/GCDC/MR
REVIEWED BY DATE
RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH REASON(S)
UNDER EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED NEWS AGENCY (ED.
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

WA2100Z7 (SEE 103--REUTER REPORTS BO[illegible]SSA OVERTHROWN)

REUTER: PARIS NEWS AGENCY SAYS BOKASSA OVERTHROWN.

WA2100Z3 LONDON REUTER IN ENGLISH 00[illegible]

(TEXT) PARIS, SEPT 20, REUTER--A PARIS-BASED NEWS AGENCY (ED. CORRECT) SAID TONIGHT THAT EMPEROR BOKASSA OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE HAD BEEN OVERTHROWN, BUT THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE CONFIRMATION OF THE REPORT.

THE REPORT CAME FROM THE AGENCE TRANSCONTINENTALE DE PRESSE (ATP), A FRENCH AGENCY WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

TWO HOURS AFTER THE AGENCY DISPATCH WAS ISSUED, THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID IT WAS UNAWARE OF ANYTHING UNUSUAL HAPPENING IN BANGUI, CAPITAL OF THE FORMER FRENCH COLONY.

MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID THE FRENCH CONSULATE IN BANGUI, CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE, REPORTED ALL WAS CALM IN THE CITY.

ACCORDING TO ATP, THE SELF-PROCLAIMED EMPEROR=S OVERTHROW WAS ANNOUNCED ON BANGUI RADIO BY HIS NEPHEW, FORMER HEAD OF STATE DAVID DACKO.

+THE DETESTED REGIME WHICH HAS EXPLOITED OUR COUNTRY FOR SO MANY YEARS HAS DECOMPOSED,+ MR DACKO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, ADDING THAT HE HAD TAKEN OVER POWER.

THE AGENCY=S CORRESPONDENT, REPORTING FROM BANGUI, SAID MR DACKO HAD PROCLAIMED A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL SALVATION AND CALLED FOR NATIONAL UNITY TO REBUILD THE COUNTRY.

EMPEROR BOKASSA, A FORMER FRENCH ARMY SERGEANT, OVERTHREW PRESIDENT DACKO IN 1966 BUT LATER TOOK HIM ON AS AN ADVISOR.

20 SEP 0111Z DS/VM